

The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, September 11. 1694.

Quest. 1. **G**entlemen, I desire your help, if you have any pity. There's a very Old-Old-Woman, that says, she's mightily in love with me. She has an Estate of an Hundred Pound a year, but is a confounded Toper, and drinks Brandy eternally. My Father is very earnest that I should have her, but I can't endure the sight of her. I'm very young, but for all that am in Love with a Young Woman, much of my own Age, who has but a little money, but she's a special good Housewife, can get her Living her self, and is willing to have me, but my Father is vehemently against it, because this Old Aqua-Vitæ-Bottle-Carrier has got so much money. Pray give your Advice what a poor Young Fellow ought to do in this miserable Case, and you'll extremely oblige, Yours, &c.

Ans. What should you do! Tarry till you're Older, and have more Wit, before you marry, and ruine one that has no more than your self, unless your Father consents to it, and you are in a way to live as well as she. For the Old Woman, your Father has not power to make you marry her, either by the Laws of God or Man; Though methinks he'd do well to take her himself, if he ben't already provided. But she knows a Young Bedfellow is good for a Consumption, and therefore, Ten to One, would prefer you before him. However, your Duty is to refuse what your Father requires of you, as handsomely and dutifully as you can; which if you do, and get your Friends to intercede for you, if he ben't very unreasonable, he'll hardly press you any further on so ungrateful a Subject.

Quest. 2. Why should a Spider spin a small Web 4 or 5 Yards long, hardly to be discern'd, which will break with the weight of a Grain, and yet it self, which is Twenty Grains, hold and descend fifty times by it?

Ans. The Spider hangs true and equally, stretching the Thread at its full Extent, the Grain strikes it of one side, when 'tis so stretcht, and therefore more easily breaks it. The Spider has the whole strength of the Thread, the Grain suppos'd to be thrown upon't, meets with Resistance but from that one part, or point on which it falls. We may add, that should it break when the Spider's upon't, it could immediately mend it, perhaps in the twinkling of an Eye, before the breach were well discernable, in so small a substance; for it darts this Thread with a prodigious swiftness, and will by the help of it, little less than fly in the Air, throwing its Ladder of Ropes from one Tree to another first, and it self afterward; nay, you can scarce throw one of the little Spinners off your Hand, but 'twill still climb up again, which must be by Vertue of this Thread, which it darts up when 'tis fallen, and recovers by it.

Quest. 3. Some time ago I dealt very unhandsonly with another person, for which a little while after I was so extremely concerned, that the trouble of my Mind prejudiced my Body, and very much disorder'd my Health; the same still rather increases upon me, and I have used all the probable means I can hear of, in order to my Recovery, but as yet all has proved ineffectual; and therefore I beg the assistance of your advice.

Ans. We have omitted giving the full account of your condition, because, as you your self observed, it can be of no great service to the Publick; though we are apt to believe the Relation to be true, and not the Effect of Trick and Whimsy, because it is very Rationally given, and an air of sincerity appears throughout the whole; therefore we the more willingly tell you what we think, and shall be pleas'd if we can contri-

bute any thing toward the Happiness of an Unfortunate Gentleman. 'Tis very probable that as the Reflection of the injustice you had done, was the first cause of your illness, so it is still a very great one of its continuance, and till you have something quieted your Mind, there is no hopes it should be removed; which can only now be effected by making all possible Reparation that lies in your power. That once done, you'll soon find such a satisfaction as will considerably contribute to your Recovery, which cannot be supposed to be perfected but with Time, that sort of Distemper, when once got, being very difficult to be freed from, it returning again in its greatest power, upon the least trouble or concern of Mind. Therefore you must disengage your self for some time from any business wherein you may probably meet with a disappointment, go into a very clear air, get some brisk and merry acquaintance, use a moderate Exercise, take no more Physick than is absolutely Necessary, and be sure never to be long fasting in a Morning, nor late up at Night.

Quest. 4. Do the same common Bonds of Faith and Justice bind all men?

Ans. If by the Bonds of Faith and Justice you understand Sincerity and Truth, they do, none having any Dispensation to be free and quit from them, since 'tis by them that the good of Society is founded and maintained.

Quest. 5. I was lately courting a Lady that passed for a great Fortune; after so long an acquaintance that she found I really loved her, she ingeniously discover'd to me, she had no Fortune. But I really loved her, and could not withdraw my self of a sudden, but endeavour'd it by degrees: But, I thank God, I have at last pretty well conquer'd my Passion. But now I find she is in love with me, even to Fondness, and all occasion'd by my loving her. I have convincing proof it's no deceit. I have a small Estate, but not enough to maintain us both according to that liberal Education we have both been bred in. Since I have been the occasion of her Passion, which she says she shall never forego, tell me whether I ought to marry her, or leave her in this condition?


Ans. The Lady has done very honourably, in discovering the Truth to you, though not over-prudently in passing for what she was not, since it must probably be the occasion of some misfortune or other; for had she carry'd on the Design to perfection, and married any one under the Notion of being a Fortune, when they had come to be undeceived, it might have been the cause of continual disquiets between them. And so in your case she owes the Unhappiness more to the Deceit than to you; and you are undoubtedly free to act as you please, if you made her no Promises after you knew she had Nothing; but if you did, they are as binding as if she Really had what you first expected.

Quest. 6. You have in one of your late Mercuries given your advice what was the best method for a Young Man's study, and I doubt not but you are as capable to give Directions for the Education of Young Women; which I think my self so much the more concerned to ask, as I should be very glad to contribute any thing to the happiness of others; and I have made in my general Observation, that the chief Reason that Men commonly so much disregard the company of their Wives is, because they are unsuitable Conversation; and therefore I believe if more care were taken in the Education of Women, Marriages would be more consonant to the Primitive Institution than now they are. I know of none so fit to advise what

methods ought to be taken at your selves, nor any from whom the Ladies will take it so kindly, or whose Directions they'll be more probable to follow; therefore I fear not the asking your Opinion in vain.

Ans. Your Observation, undoubtedly, is very Just, and many have been sensible of it: Dr. Burnet in his Letters, tells us of an *Italian* that complained to him of the Unhappiness of his Nation, in their Womens being generally so educated, that they were unfit for Society, and thought the *English* were happy in having something the advantage of 'em in that respect; which is certainly true; yet would our Women be much more agreeable, if they'd endeavour to become more Reasonable. Women have undoubtedly the same Principles of Reason with Men, and therefore whatever would tend to the accomplishing of Men (some particular publick businesses excepted) would be useful to Women. Vertue and Piety is indeed the most preferable Study, and makes all Rational Creatures the likest God himself; and Rational Creatures cannot imitate a better Pattern than the Original of Reason. Next to the business of Piety, or the Knowledge and Practice of our Duties, which indeed ought to be the study of our whole Lives, we would advise as great a freedom of Converse with all sorts of Persons, especially the Wise and Good, as custom, and the innocent practices of the age will permit; To Read Persons makes a deeper, and more lasting impression than Books, and fits us more for passing hand-somely through the world. But among the Studies of Books, a considerable part of the Mathematicks is so absolutely Necessary for forming the mind, that it appears to us the greatest Riddle in Nature, that the Female Gentry and Nobility of our Nation are ignorant of 'em; The practical parts indeed of the Mathematicks would be almost useless, as Gunnery, Fortification, Dialling, Architecture, &c. but the Theorick parts ought by no means to be neglected, they do so enlarge and open the mind, make it strong, piercing and solid, and consequently free it from those impertinencies which doubtless are rather accidental than natural to that sex. The Axioms only in *Euclids Elements* ought to be got by heart, as young as possible; common Arithmetick, and the first 6 Books of *Euclid* ought to be read about the 13th or 14th Year, or sooner, according to the forwardness of the Learner, and *Algebra*, with its application to Geometry and Numeral Questions, ought to be read with *Euclid*, together with the use of the Globes, Geography and History: An hour in a day will in 12 months, or a very little more, accomplish this, which may very well be spar'd out of the impertinent, not to say, criminal loss of Time; which too many are suffered to squander away. A course of Philosophy, Logick, and a little Metaphysics, are also Necessary; two hours in a day (omitting the Seventh day), will be sufficient in a Year and an half for an happier Education than most of our Female Gentry can boast of. Besides these Endowments of the Mind, the Body is not to be neglected; it is a very considerable part of us, and a good servant to the mind when well regulated: So much Dancing is absolutely Necessary for a good Carriage, and decent Deportment to all persons, according to their Qualities; more, perhaps, might very well be spar'd. Afternoons for converse and innocent diversions, and mornings for studies, would do well. This is a Rude Draught of what we think proper for Ladies Educations, and there are some, to our knowledge, who are now in practice of it; and perhaps we have some Reason to believe, before this Generation is extinct, the benefit of it will make it more universally Received, and Believed, That those things are as absolutely necessary for a Ladies, as now they begin to be esteemed for a Gentlemans Education.

Advertisement.

 THE Treatise lately Printed at Paris, and since Reprinted at Am-

sterdam, Entituled, *The Knowledge of the World, or the Art of Educating Youth well*: To be continued Monthly, till the whole Design is Finish'd, in Form of Letters, will be Publish'd here in very few days. Done into *English* by an extraordinary good Hand, (Licensed and Entered in the Hall Book.)


Printed for John Dunton, at the Raven in the Poultry.

The Ready Money Adventurers

ARE desired to take notice, that the time being expired for Drawing the Tickets, and the Books being almost full, the Undertakers, as also the Receivers, and many of the greatest Adventurers, desire that it may be full, therefore it is deferred to the 25th of this Instant September, to compleat the Books, and make up the Tickets which is now in hand. The Tickets may be had of Mr. Harrison, at the Hen and Chickens in Cheap-side, Mr. Clements at the Seven Stars in Newgate-street, Mr. Christcross without Ludgate, Mr. Hart at the Crown near Turnstile in Holborn, Mr. Prince over-against Red Lyon-Court in Drury-lane, Mr. Roberts at the Green Dragon near the New Exchange in the Strand, Mr. Hooton at the Golden Boy near Charing-Cross, Mr. Coleman over-against the King's Brewhouse by the Hermitage near St. Catharines, Mr. Amson at the Ring near Salisbury-Court in Fleetstreet, Gold-Smiths; At Mr. Lloyds Coffee-house in Lombardstreet, Mr. Brand at the Rain-bow Coffee-house, the Corner of St. Martins-lane, Charing-Cross, Mr. Sanders at the Carlisle Coffee-house in Kings-street near Guild-hall, Mr. Deardes at the Dial under St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet, and at his Shop in Westminster-hall. It will be drawn at the Musick-Room in Charles-street, Covent-Garden.

The Sale of Sterling Plate,

Will certainly be Drawn on the 29th of this Instant September next, full or not full, in proportion to what is then full (the Books to be shut 6 days before) at the Musick-room in Charles-street, Covent-garden, beginning precisely at 8 of the clock in the Morning. Tickets may be had of Mr. Bowman at the Flower-de-Luce, near the New-Exchange in the Strand, Mr. Cole at the Anchor over-against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street, Mr. Foden at the Golden-Falcon near Fetter-lane-end in Holborn, Mr. Burningham at the Black-Raven in Newgate-street, Mr. Layfield at the White-horse in Lombard-street, Mr. Barham at Ratcliff-Cross, Mr. de Cayne at Bishops-gate, Mr. Holloway at the Cup in Leaden-hall-street near Ald-gate, Mr. Sykamore at the Star on St. Margaret's-Hill in Southwark, Goldsmiths, Mr. Ward at the Mere-maid in Cheap-side, and at his Shop under the Corn-Market in Bristol City, during the Fair, Mr. Millner in Popes-head-Alley near the Royal-Exchange, Mr. Brindley at the corner of Fetter-lane in Fleetstreet, Mr. Banes Merchant in the City of York, Mr. Smith next Bedford-gate in Charles-street, Covent-Garden.

 IN Grays-Inn-lane in Plow-yard, the third Door, lives Dr. Thomas Kirleus, a Collegiate Physician, and Sworn Physician in Ordinary to King Charles the Second, until his death; who with a Drink and Pill (hindring no Business) undertakes to cure any Ulcers, Sores, Swellings in the Nose, Face, or other parts; Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Leprosies, and Venereal Disease, expecting nothing until the Cure be finished: Of the last he hath cured many hundreds in this City, many of them after fluxing, which carries the evil from the Lower Parts to the Head, and so destroys many. The Drink is 3 s. the Quart, the Pill 1 s. a Box, with Directions; a better Purger than which was never given, for they cleanse the Body of all Impurities, which are the causes of Dropsies, Gouts, Scurvies, Stone or Gravel, Pains in the Head, and other parts. Take heed whom you trust in Physick, for it's become a common Cheat to profess it. He gives his Opinion to all that write or come, for nothing.